

Miscellaneous

A LIBERTY LOAN WITH LARGE RETURNS.

By Rev. W. H. Miley, D. D.

The raising of the Liberty Loan Fund by our government has been pronounced the greatest financial achievement of history. All America and the allied nations were greatly surprised and gratified, not only at the ease and rapidity with which it was done, but at the widespread and universal interest manifested. The subscriptions poured in from all quarters and from all classes. There were four reasons for this wonderful achievement.

In the first place, it was a great undertaking for a great cause—world-

wide and perpetual peace. And Americans being a great people with a great country, love great things.

In the second place, back of it all was the spirit of patriotism. Our people felt that in helping to feed and defend the allied nations, they were fighting for home and native land, two institutions dearer to the true American than all other earthly things.

In the third place, it was recognized as a good investment. The bonds are safe and the interest sure.

And in the fourth place, back of the greatness of the task, the spirit of patriotism, and the safety of the bonds, was the systematic and definite planning by the government.

But now comes a call for another liberty loan of larger proportions. And for the same reasons there should be a response even more universal and hearty.

In the first place, it is a greater undertaking, and for a greater cause. The task is the raising of a great fund of spiritual force—the complete surrender of self to the service of our King. This is more than money. "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."

What is needed, more than anything else, is a complete giving of self in active service. "Son, go work today in my vineyard." This done, all else will follow. In commending the churches of Macedonia, Paul said: "They first gave their own selves to the Lord," then "beyond their power they were willing of themselves; praying us with much entreaty that we would receive the gift."

The cause is universal freedom and peace for an enslaved people, 23,000,000 of whom are at your door. A freedom and peace which the world cannot give: "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." "My peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth, give I unto you."

In the second place, it is an appeal to patriotism. Here we are indeed fighting for home and native land in the highest, truest sense. As we value the spiritual above the physical, the eternal above the temporal, and the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour above any earthly kingdom, so this call to patriotism is peculiarly strong.

All honor to the spirit of patriotism that is filling the bosom of our American citizens to-day. But there is a higher patriotism than that. Christ said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." On August 1st, the kaiser addressed the German people thus: "Let all our actions and all our thoughts be devoted to this fight." The American people could make no greater mistake than to adopt such a motto and overlook our allegiance to Him who "ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will." Yet in these strenuous times there is danger of our making just that mistake.

In the third place, it is a safe investment. An eminent divine when called upon, in the interest of a great cause, to preach a sermon on giving, announced this text: "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again." Then followed this brief sermon: "If you like the security, down with the dust." Jesus promises that for all that is given for his sake here, we "shall receive an hundredfold now in this time . . . and in the world to come eternal life." And again, "He that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." Is the investment safe? Are the returns suffi-

cient? Is the interest sure? Let us heed the call with such whole-hearted patriotism that when the conflict is over, he will say to each of us: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

And in the fourth place, it is a call for systematic and definite work. Every individual in highways and hedges, in streets and lanes is to be looked after. Would it not be well for the leaders at least in every Presbytery and the officers in every congregation to get together and formulate definite plans for a more aggressive work in meeting the task before us? Is it always to be said that "the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light"?

Atlanta, Ga.

Marriages

Frank-Brodie: In the Woman's Building, Montreat, N. C., August 4, 1917, by Rev. William J. McMillan, D. D., Mr. Charles E. Frank, of Hot Springs, N. C., and Miss Louise A. Brodie, of Baltimore, Md.

Van Devanter-Graham: In the Presbyterian church, Waterford, Va., August 9, 1917, at 2 P. M., by Rev. Bolling Hobson, Mr. Albert Lee Van Devanter and Miss Annie Rebecca Graham. Both of near Hamilton, Va., Loudoun county.

Brown-Wallace: In Hazlehurst, Miss., June 20, 1917, by Rev. S. E. Cardwell, Mr. William Brown and Miss Ina Wallace, all of Copiate county, Miss.

Hart-Cockerham: In Hazlehurst, Miss., May 31, 1917, Mr. L. W. Hart and Mrs. W. A. Cockerham, all of Copiate county, Miss.

Deaths

Smith: On August 20, 1917, after an illness of two years, Mr. James H. Smith, who had for many years been a faithful ruling elder in the Maryland Avenue Presbyterian church, Baltimore.

RATS.

What are rats for? Whether they have any useful purpose in the economy of nature may be a debatable question. But there can be no question that they are very destructive

animals. It is estimated that rats and mice destroy hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of food in this country every year.

This is a waste for which there is no compensation and for which there is very little excuse. By the use of traps and poison rats and mice can be exterminated.

It may be difficult for any one family to rid its place of these pests, though persistent effort can do much toward reducing the number. It may be necessary not only to kill out those about the house or farm, but also to kill those that come over from the neighbors.

If a united effort is made by all the people of any community in either city or country rats can be practically eliminated. The grain that can be destroyed by a rat will go a long way towards feeding a pig or a man.

The question every one ought to consider is whether it is better to kill rats or let our soldiers or our Allies be killed by lack of food.

Now is the time to begin the fight before the crops are gathered.

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